(a) whether it is a fact that the recent incident of seizure of control by militants of the Rajasthan Feeder Control room, stopping flow of water from Bhakra mainline canal to Rajasthan for over 12 hours and then causing a 300 feet breach in the embankment thereof in Faridkot district has opened a new dimension to the problem posed by militancy in Punjab;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard together with the aid given to the State Government during the last three months to contain and curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Government have noticed the incident.

(b) and (c) Protection of canals flowing through States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Central Governmnt provides all necessary assistance as and when required.

Parliamentary forces at Bastar border

636. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have deputed paramilitary forces at the Baster border in Madhya Pradesh which is adjoining to Andhra Pradesh to contain the naxalite menace:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what achievements have so far been made in containing naxalite menace in Madhya Pradesh after positioning the above forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Deplorable conditions in Tihar Jail

637. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign prisoners in Tihar Jail, Delhi have decided to go on 'indefinite hunger strike' recently in protest against the miserable laid conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that conditions in Tihar Jail are very much deplorable;

(d) whether Government propose to investigate, through CBI, the conditions of Tihar Jail prisoners; and

(e) if so, the other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). There was a news-item in the Indian Express in its issue of 2.7.1992 that foreign prisoners in Tihar's Jail No. 1 are believed to have gone on an indefinite strike from Wednesday in protest against the jail conditions. The jail authorities have reported that though some foreign prisopers claimed to have gone on hunger strike, all of them were taking their meals regularly in jail.

(c) The number of prisoners as on 10-7-1992 in Tihar Jail was around 7400 as against its capacity of 2219. This has caused strain on water supply and other amenities.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) The measures include construction of more jails; augmentation of water supply; improvement in the medical conditions; improvement in the medical conditions; etc.